

REMARKS

Applicant elects Group II, claims 29-34, directed to a method for production of a laminated strip. The election is made with traverse.

Applicant has amended withdrawn claim 19 and elected claim 29. It is believed that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Applicant asserts there is sufficient disclosure for the exchange of the feature "in relief" against "in form of a three-dimensional relief." In the second paragraph of the description, examples are given for a structure in relief: "such as a name or manufacturer's trademark, for example," (third sentence) and, "...brand signs and/or labels..." (fourth sentence). Furthermore, in the second paragraph of the description of the figures (page 7, second paragraph of the English translation, first sentence) a structure in relief 18 is mentioned, "...created by embossing a specific text or graphic symbol into the thin aluminum sheet 12 ..."

Moreover, in the described embodiment according to figures 1 and 2, it is clearly shown that the shape of the laminated strip is not constant in the axial direction of the strip. This is in contrast to the cited art, U.S. Patent 3,745,056, where the thin metal is shaped to a configuration which approximates a channel configuration (col. 6, lines 64, 65) so that the cross-section of the strip remains constant throughout its length (col. 7, lines 63, 64). Such a channel-like shape as proposed in US Patent 3,745,056, results in a two-dimensional structure which does not change its shape in the third dimension. This is entirely different to the three-dimensional relief which is presently claimed.

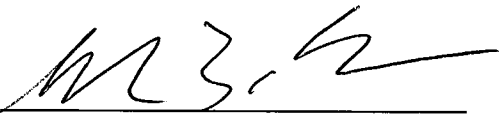
Furthermore, in accordance with the present application, this relief is embossed. The prior art channel configuration of the thin metal foil will normally be achieved by some bending process for example rolling of the metal foil. One having ordinary skill in the art would not consider employing an embossing unit to produce such a shape.

An advantage of the present invention is the provision of a decorative strip with a thin metal sheet carrying a durable complex structure in relief with sharp edges. The reduction of the thickness of the metal sheet reduces the production costs (see for example, page 2, fourth paragraph to page 3, second paragraph of the present application).

Applicant requests examination on the merits and favorable consideration of the claims at this time.

The Office is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit to Deposit Account 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

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